

REMARKS

The above amendment and these remarks are responsive to the Office Action of Examiner Kieu D. Vu of 15 Jan 2004, designated as FINAL.

Claims 1-19 and 21 are in the case, none as yet allowed.

35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1-13 and 19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Grau et al (Grau, USP 5,910,803) and Salas et al (Salas, USP 6,314,408).

Claims 14-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Grau, Salas, and Rodden et al (Rodden, USP 6,473,102).

By way of summary, the Examiner appears to be relying on Grau for a teaching of the search concept, on Salas for a teaching of collaboration space, and on Rodden for a teaching of floating windows.

Applicants invention provides a quick browse window, which is a separate window from the main window loaded with short, descriptive links to hits from a user browser initiated search of collaboration space. The search is user initiated as either a regular search or a what's new search against collaboration space. The results of the search are displayed in the main window along with a quickbrowse icon or other selector 302. The user clicks on the quickbrowse icon or selector, and in response a quickbrowse floating window 296 opens which includes the search results as selection items. As the user clicks on selection items in the quickbrowse window and the selected content is displayed in the main window.

These features are described in applicants specification at pages 83-85, as follows:

In accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention, a system and method is provided for enhancing browsing in collaboration space of collections of links. These link collections exist in a variety of formats which users need to be able to quickly visit in any order. For example, a random access UI is provided to What's New and Search Results

links. These items can reside in more than [one] room, producing potentially brutal context switches from one link to the next...

Referring to Figure 14, in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention, quick-browse is implemented as a "remote control" UI mechanism 304. A Remote Control link/icon is displayed in any context 296 that supports it, such as Search Results and What's New. When the user clicks the remote control link 302, such as button 536 (Figure 10), or 532 (Figure 9), a window 296, 330 opens with a compact set of links 304 to browse. When the user clicks a link in the remote control 304, the main QuickPlace window 330 is redirected to the linked page 332...

Clicking the remote control icon opens a quickbrowse window, containing one or more links. Upon being clicked, these links open in the main QuickPlace window; therefore the QuickBrowse window acts like a remote control onto the main window. This allows the set of hits to remain available as the user browses around, in any order. What's New and Search Results generate links that can be anywhere in a QuickPlace -

i.e., in any of possibly many different rooms. The QuickBrowse window is an attempt to bring some coherence to the experience of jumping around all over the QuickPlace.

All independent claims have been amended to variously recite these features. As amended, the claims clearly distinguish the Grau reference, upon which the Examiner relies for the "searching" concept. Neither Salas nor Rodden teach this concept, so the combination of Grau with Salas and Roddeen does not teach applicants invention as now defined.

Applicants urge that claims 1-19 and 21 be allowed.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Applicants urge that the above amendments be entered and the case passed to issue with claims 1-19 and 21.

The Application is believed to be in condition for

allowance and such action by the Examiner is urged. Should differences remain, however, which do not place one/more of the remaining claims in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to phone the undersigned at the number provided below for the purpose of providing constructive assistance and suggestions in accordance with M.P.E.P. Sections 707.02(j) and 707.03 in order that allowable claims can be presented, thereby placing the Application in condition for allowance without further proceedings being necessary.

Sincerely,

T. J. Linsey, et al.

By


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